1. (Twice Amended) A method operable within a network switch for managing a broadcast tree, said method comprising the steps of:

    constructing a pruned broadcast tree by propagation of dynamic cost information packets; and

    forwarding received broadcast messages to other network devices in accordance with said pruned broadcast tree, wherein an acknowledgement message is received in response to the dynamic cost information packet, where the acknowledgement message indicates if an associated path should be used for broadcast to an identified network device.

11. (Twice Amended) A network switch including a computer readable storage medium tangibly embodying a method operable within said network switch for managing a broadcast tree, said method comprising the steps of:

    constructing a pruned broadcast tree by propagation of dynamic cost information packets; and

    forwarding received broadcast messages to other network devices in accordance with said pruned broadcast tree, wherein an acknowledgement message is received in response to the dynamic cost information packet, where the acknowledgement message indicates if an associated path should be used for broadcast to an identified network device.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

    In section 1 of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to because various items require descriptive

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In re Ballard C. Bare
U.S. Appl. No. 09/228,087